

REPORT OF THE FINANCE LABOR SUBCOMMITTEE

June 21, 2005

The Honorable,
The Board of Commissioners of Cook County

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chairman Murphy, Vice Chairman Moreno, Commissioners Gorman, Hansen, Maldonado and Sims (6)

Absent: Commissioner Butler (1)

Also

Present: None (0)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Your Finance Labor Subcommittee of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County met pursuant to notice on Tuesday, June 21, 2005, at the hour of 3:00 P.M. in the Board Room, Room 569, County Building, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Your Subcommittee has considered the following item and, upon adoption of this report, the recommendations are as follows:

271173 URGING THE PASSAGE OF THE SECURE AMERICA AND ORDERLY IMMIGRATION ACT OF 2005 (PROPOSED RESOLUTION). Submitting a Proposed Resolution Sponsored by Roberto Maldonado, County Commissioner.

I am submitting this Resolution as a New Item at the May 17, 2005 Board Meeting to be referred to the Labor Subcommittee. The Resolution urges the passage of a comprehensive immigration reform initiative known as "The Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act of 2005."

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the United States were founded by immigrants, who have traveled from around the world to seek a better life; and

WHEREAS, the United States has an undocumented population of eleven million immigrants, including half a million in Illinois, more than 300,000 of which reside in Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Cook County's undocumented immigrants fill key roles in our economy such as paying taxes (including contributions to Social Security that they cannot receive back), raising families, and contributing to our schools, churches, neighborhoods and communities; and

WHEREAS, our current immigration system contributes to long backlogs, labor abuses, countless deaths on the border and vigilante violence and is in dire need of reform to meet the challenges of the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, any comprehensive reform must involve a path to citizenship for these hardworking immigrants, as well as reunification of families and a safe and orderly process for enabling willing immigrant workers to fill essential jobs in our economy and ensure full labor rights; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Representative Luis Gutierrez has joined with U.S. Senators Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts and John McCain of Arizona to offer a comprehensive U.S. immigration reform law known as "The Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act"; and

WHEREAS, the immigration initiative severely punishes illegal employment practices while creating a path to earned permanent legal status for individuals who have been working in the United States, paying taxes, obeying the law and learning English and protecting workers by ensuring the right to change jobs, join a union and report abusive employment situations; and

WHEREAS, modernizing our antiquated and dysfunctional immigration system will uphold our nation's basic values of fairness, equal opportunity and respect for the law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the President and the Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby support comprehensive immigration reform and memorialize the Illinois Congressional delegation to urge the passage of "The Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act of 2005 (SB 1033 and HB 2330)" that allows every hardworking, law-abiding individual to achieve the American Dream; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be delivered to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate and the Illinois Congressional Delegation.

***Referred to the Committee on Finance Labor Subcommittee on 5/17/2005.**

Commissioner Maldonado, seconded by Commissioner Moreno, moved to Approve the Proposed Resolution (Comm. No. 271173.).

Commissioners Moreno and Sims requested that they be added as Co-Sponsors.

The Secretary of the Board read the Resolution into the Record.

Commissioner Maldonado introduced the following Amendment to the Proposed Resolution.

AMENDMENT #1

RESOLUTION

Sponsored by

THE HONORABLE ROBERTO MALDONADO

Co-Sponsored by

COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS JOSEPH MARIO MORENO AND DEBORAH SIMS

WHEREAS, the United States were founded by immigrants, who have traveled from around the world to seek a better life; and

WHEREAS, the United States has an undocumented population of eleven million immigrants, including half a million in Illinois, more than 300,000 of which reside in Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Cook County's undocumented immigrants fill key roles in our economy such as paying taxes (including contributions to Social Security that they cannot receive back), raising families, and contributing to our schools, churches, neighborhoods, and communities; and

WHEREAS, our current immigration system contributes to long backlogs, labor abuses, countless deaths on the border and vigilante violence and is in dire need of reform to meet the challenges of the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, any comprehensive reform must involve a path to citizenship for these hardworking immigrants, as well as reunification of families and a safe and orderly process for enabling willing immigrant workers to fill essential jobs in our economy and ensure full labor rights; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Representative Luis Gutierrez has joined with U.S. Senators Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts and John McCain of Arizona to offer a comprehensive U.S. immigration reform law known as "The Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act;" and

WHEREAS, the immigration initiative severely punishes illegal employment practices while creating a path to earned permanent legal status for individuals who have been working in the United States, paying taxes, obeying the law and learning English and protecting workers by ensuring the right to change jobs, join a union and report abusive employment situations; and

WHEREAS, modernizing our antiquated and dysfunctional immigration system will uphold our nation's basic values of fairness, equal opportunity, and respect for the law.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be delivered to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the ~~President of the Senate~~, **the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the House**, and the Illinois Congressional Delegation.

Commissioner Maldonado, seconded by Vice Chairman Moreno, moved to Amend the Proposed Resolution (Comm. No. 271173). The motion carried.

Commissioner Hansen acknowledged that the U.S. Immigration System needs reforms. He further stated that the current system demeans participants and breaks up families. He noted, however, that poorly regulated immigration flow raises the unemployment rate.

Chairman Murphy stated that perhaps the Resolution can be a first step in immigration reform. She further stated that any Congressional bill would prove most effective if it addressed immigration reform on a case-by-case basis.

Commissioner Sims voiced her support of the Resolution.

Commissioner Moreno voiced his support of the Resolution. He emphasized that undocumented workers contribute to both the work strength and the tax wealth of the United States.

Commissioner Maldonado stated the following: There is bi-partisan Congressional support for this issue. The issue contains enough common ground that a bill most likely will be enacted by next year. Anyone eligible for this bill must have paid taxes, learned English and obeyed the law. The existing language of "The Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act," addresses the issue that foreign workers should not be allowed to undercut job availability. He stated that 77% of Americans support this type of reform.

Commissioner Hansen introduced the following Amendment to the Proposed Resolution.

AMENDMENT #2

RESOLUTION

Sponsored by

THE HONORABLE ROBERTO MALDONADO

Co-Sponsored by

COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS JOSEPH MARIO MORENO AND DEBORAH SIMS

WHEREAS, the United States were founded by immigrants, who have traveled from around the world to seek a better life; and

WHEREAS, the United States has an undocumented population of eleven million immigrants, including half a million in Illinois, more than 300,000 of which reside in Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Cook County's undocumented immigrants fill key roles in our economy such as paying taxes (including contributions to Social Security that they cannot receive back), raising families, and contributing to our schools, churches, neighborhoods, and communities; and

WHEREAS, our current immigration system contributes to long backlogs, labor abuses, countless deaths on the border and vigilante violence and is in dire need of reform to meet the challenges of the 21st Century; and

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WHEREAS, U.S. Representative Luis Gutierrez has joined with U.S. Senators Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts and John McCain of Arizona to offer a comprehensive U.S. immigration reform law known as "The Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act;" and

WHEREAS, the immigration initiative severely punishes illegal employment practices while creating a path to earned permanent legal status for individuals who have been working in the United States, paying taxes, obeying the law and learning English and protecting workers by ensuring the right to change jobs, join a union and report abusive employment situations; and

WHEREAS, modernizing our antiquated and dysfunctional immigration system will uphold our nation's basic values of fairness, equal opportunity, and respect for the law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the President and the members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby support comprehensive immigration reform and memorialize the Illinois Congressional delegation to urge the passage of "The Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act of 2005 (SB 1033 and HB 2330)" that allows every hardworking, law-abiding individual to achieve the American Dream; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be delivered to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the ~~President of the Senate~~, **President of the Senate the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the House**, and the Illinois Congressional Delegation.

Commissioner Hansen, seconded by Vice Chairman Moreno, moved Approval of the Amendment to Amendment #1. The motion carried.

Chairman Murphy asked the Secretary to the Board to call upon the registered public speakers.

1. Tim Leahy – Chicago Federation of Labor
2. Juan Salgado – President of the Board, ICIRR
3. Emma Lozano – Centro Sin Fronteras
4. Grazyna Zajackowska – Polish American Alliance
5. Elzbieta Gasionek – Concerned Citizen
6. Cynthia Rodriguez – Vice President, SELIU 73
7. Father Matthew Foley – St. Agnes of Bohemia
8. Reverend Dr. Marti Scott – United Methodist Church, Northeastern Illinois Conference
9. Reverend CJ Wright, Sr. – Metropolitan Alliance of Congregations
10. Syed Khan – Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago

11. Marketa Lindt – American Immigration Lawyers Association
12. George Blakemore – Concerned Citizen

A voted was taken on the motion to Approve the Resolution (Comm. 271173) As Amended. Commissioner Maldonado called for a Roll Call, the vote of yeas and nays being as follows:

ROLL CALL ON MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 271173 AS AMENDED

Yeas: Chairman Murphy, Vice Chairman Moreno, Commissioners Gorman, Maldonado and Sims (5)

Nay: Commissioner Hansen (1)

Present: None (0)

Absent: Commissioner Butler (1)

The motion to Approve CARRIED.

Vice Chairman Moreno moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Gorman. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Finance Labor Subcommittee

Joan Patricia Murphy, Chairman

Attest:

Michelle Harris, Secretary